

*Friends School Mullica Hill
A community of hope
Growing hearts,
Engaging minds,
Building character,
Changing our world,
One student at a time.*



**HEAD OF SCHOOL
July 1, 2010**

**FRIENDS SCHOOL MULLICA HILL
Mullica Hill, NJ**

HISTORY AND MISSION

Founded in 1969, Friends School Mullica Hill serves 205 students in grades PK – 8. It is the only Quaker school in Gloucester County New Jersey, and is governed by a self-appointing Board of Trustees, a majority of whom are required to be members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The school prides itself on diversity in belief, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background. FSMH encourages students of all religions and traditions to listen inwardly and learn to recognize that of God in themselves and other. These values are reflected in the daily life of the community and in Meeting for Worship.

The vision statement of Friends School is as follows:

*A community of hope
growing hearts,
engaging minds,
building character,
changing our world,
one student at a time.*

The School is a nurturing and caring community that focuses on the development of elementary and middle school students in a setting that meets their needs – academic, artistic, athletic, and spiritual.

Meeting for worship is central to the education at Friends School. Through their Equality Testimony, Quakers believe that children and adults alike need time and space to explore their own inner selves. Accordingly, the school requires attendance by both teachers and students at a weekly Meeting for Worship. In the Lower School Meeting, including grades one through five, a query is presented by a student. The responsibility for developing the query rests with each grade on a rotating basis. At Middle School Meeting, the format varies, with queries sometimes read, and at other times, Meeting proceeds out of the opening silent worship.

CAMPUS AND LOCATION

Friends School is located on 27 acres in the heart of historic, downtown Mullica Hill, New Jersey. Known primarily for the antiques trade, Mullica Hill has grown significantly over the past 40 years, and the school has grown with it. In addition to 3 classroom buildings, the campus includes a 12-acre undisturbed woodland located across High Street from the Noel-Baker and Deshbandhu Buildings. The school holds its Meeting for Worship in the Mullica Hill Monthly meetinghouse, built in 1797.

The school significantly improved the campus over the past decade, most noticeably with the construction of the Hanshi Deshbandhu Building named for a long-serving teacher at the school. The 20,000 square foot building includes 8 spacious lower school classrooms, the school's library and computer room, two science laboratories, and 8 acoustically isolated music rehearsal rooms used by the school's Fine and Performing Arts Program. Interesting outdoor play areas, and a full size gymnasium combine to form a safe and appropriate campus for students of every grade.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Friends School Mullica Hill is a welcoming community that is marked by the close relationships among students, teachers, and parents. The Head of School and other members of the faculty and administrative team greet students at the car line each morning. Small class sizes help teachers to know their students well, and in a variety of ways. Parents are involved in school life through informal and formal volunteer efforts, most notably through the work of the Parents Association.

Graduates of the school attend a variety of private, parochial, and public high schools in the tri-state area. The school's commitment to diversity is reflected in its commitment to the financial aid program and the fact that students of color represent 26% of total enrollment.

The Administration consists of the Head of School, the Lower School Principal, two Middle School Teacher-Coordinators, an Admissions Director, and a Business Manager. The Board of Trustees is composed of 21 parents and former parents, grandparents, alumni, Quakers, and community members. A majority of its members are Quakers, a standard practice at Friends Schools.



PROGRAM

Dedicated Lower School teachers present up-to-date topics through integrated, cross-curricular lessons. Classroom projects provide opportunities to apply and practice basic skills while fostering creativity within each child. Students develop new problem solving and critical thinking skills through intellectually stimulating programs that provoke curiosity and foster a lifelong love of learning. Students are encouraged to consider and honor others through the development of healthy respectful social relationships and the practice of peaceful conflict resolution. Friends School helps all students learn about honoring diversity, valuing individual and group achievement, and contributing their strengths to the needs of the community and the world.



The Middle School curriculum is designed for students to reach their potential academically, intellectually and socially. It continues with a strong academic emphasis that exposes students to a variety of learning experiences. Academic projects such as United Nations Day, the science fair and field trips provide students the opportunity to expand their scholastic strengths and interests. Art and art history classes as well as chorus, drama and musical productions provide exposure to the fine and performing arts. Students can compete in interscholastic sports teams that include soccer, basketball, field hockey, softball and track. Throughout Middle School, there is a focus on teamwork and on fostering a spirit of mutual cooperation and trust. Our students continue their high school education with a solid academic foundation with respect for others and confidence in themselves.



From Lower School to Middle School, FSMH students are active participants in the larger community through a wide range of community service activities. Through a Friends education, our students learn to develop and appreciate their potential as individuals within this context of a caring community.

In sum, Friends School Mullica Hill's program provides a close-knit learning environment with challenging instruction. The school's academically challenging environment nurtures intellectual curiosity, stimulates personal growth, encourages critical thinking and personal motivation.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Bolster enrollment in the face of difficult demographic and economic circumstances.
- Strengthen the financial foundation of the school through development activities, a recurring challenge for PK-8 schools.
- Improve communication between all school constituencies.
- Maintain the Quaker identity of the school.
- Market the benefits of a Quaker education and the value of an independent school education to the broader community of Southern New Jersey, especially in Gloucester and Salem Counties
- Continue to attract well-qualified students of diverse backgrounds.
- Continue to attract great teachers
- Nurture faculty growth through a professional development program that includes training with new technologies

FSMH FACTS

- Founded 1969
- 27 Acres including 12 acres of undisturbed woodlands
- Pre-kindergarten – 8th grade
- Total enrollment: 208
- Faculty: 37 (47.5 Total employees)
- Student-teacher ratio: 1:12
- Students of Color: 26%
- 2009-2010 tuition: \$13,900 (PK-5), \$14,850 (6-8)
- Financial Aid: 17.6% of operating budget
- Students Receiving Financial Aid: 35%, average 2009-2010 award was \$5,495
- Annual Fund giving: \$78,000 in 2008-2009
- Successful Property Acquisition Fundraising Campaign 2008-2009
- Annual Budget: \$3,121,423
- Indebtedness: \$2,620,509

ACCREDITATIONS

New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJAIS)
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSACS)

MEMBERSHIPS

NAIA, NJAIS, MSACS
Friends Council on Education (FCE)
Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS)
Independent School Management (ISM)
Educational Records Bureau (ERB)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

- Has experience or familiarity with Quaker education
- Can communicate very effectively with a diverse range of constituencies
- Understands independent school finance
- Has both enthusiasm and experience in development and fundraising
- Holds experience in enrollment management and outreach
- Possesses leadership and administrative experience
- Can engage parents in a positive dialogue
- Is sensitive to the value and the Light in each person
- Is an extraordinary listener
- Has great intellectual energy and stamina
- Loves working with kids
- Experienced in making difficult decisions

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, a current resume, a statement of educational philosophy and practice, list of 5 references with name, phone number, and email for each to:

William Carrigan
Assistant Clerk, Board of Trustees
Friends School Mullica Hill
15 High Street
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
headsearch@friendsmh.org
856-478-2908